

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PINT, PEPR, DR

SUBJECT: EL CARIBE'S COMPLAINTS ABOUT EMBASSY "PRESSURES"

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 3421

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S REPLY TO JUNE 6
LETTER FROM JOHN REITEMEYER OF THE HARTFORD COURANT COM-
PLAINING OF ALLEGED EFFORTS BY EMBOFFS TO PRESSURE EL
CARIBE. OUR REPLY WAS SIGNED BY ARA DAS SHELTON AND
DATED JUNE 22:

QTE. DEAR MR. REITEMEYER: SECRETARY VANCE HAS ASKED ME
TO REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF JUNE 6, EXPRESSING CONCERN
REGARDING ACCUSATIONS AGAINST OUR EMBASSY IN SANTO DOMINGO
MADE BY MR. GERMAN ORNES, THE PUBLISHER OF EL CARIBE.

THE CHARGES BY MR. ORNES TO WHICH YOU REFER HAVE BEEN
DENIED BY OUR EMBASSY. THE EMBASSY INFORMS US THAT IT
HAS NOT, AND WOULD NOT, ENGAGE IN DISCREDITING OR FAVORING
PARTICULAR NEWSPAPERS OR MEDIA OFFICIALS IN THE DOMINICAN
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REPUBLIC AND THAT IT HAS HAD NO CONTACTS WITH THE INTER-
AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY,
CONCERNING ANYONE'S STANDING IN THAT ORGANIZATION.

I AM SATISFIED THAT BOTH MR. AXELROD OF THE EMBASSY AND
MR. BELL, OUR ICA PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER IN SANTO DOMINGO,
NEITHER ENGAGED IN ANY IMPROPER ACTIVITIES NOR ATTEMPTED

TO PLACE PRESSURE UPON THE PUBLISHER OR STAFF OF EL CARIBE.

DURING THE RECENT ELECTORAL CRISIS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, BOTH MR. AXELROD AND MR. BELL DID CARRY OUT THEIR DUTY AS U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN MAKING SURE THAT EL CARIBE AS WELL AS OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC WERE AWARE OF THE POSITION THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN IN FAVOR OF RESPECT FOR FREE ELECTIONS AND CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES. AT NO TIME WAS A SPECIFIC EDITORIAL LINE SUGGESTED TO THE PAPER.

I SHOULD ALSO LIKE TO ADD THAT I AM SURPRISED THAT MR. ORNES, AN EMINENT JOURNALIST AND PROMINENT MEMBER OF THE IAPA, WOULD TRANSMIT ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN HIS COUNTRY WITHOUT EITHER INFORMING THE EMBASSY OF HIS COMPLAINT OR SOLICITING ITS COMMENT.

ON BEHALF OF SECRETARY VANCE, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS THE DEPARTMENT'S APPRECIATION OF YOUR INTEREST IN THIS MATTER. UNQTE. VANCE

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